



Along the Trail

Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Club

Newsletter

October 2015

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NO JULY NEWSLETTER

Your editor regrets and apologizes for not publishing the third-quarter newsletter, due to a short, but debilitating illness, which has happily gone its way, leaving no adverse effects in its wake.

PETITION TO SAVE THE HAIKU STAIRS

The Friends of Haiku Stairs was prepared to present a petition to save the Stairs to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply at its regular meeting on August 24th. The petition, which has been signed by 5,514 persons to date, continues to circulate. As this newsletter went to press, no word of the results of this action had yet been made public by either BWS or FHS. Watch the news media for results. If you have not yet done so, please consider signing the petition at www.haikustairs.org

PUPUKEA PAUMALU TRAIL WORK CONTINUES

On August 16, under the direction of Tim Tybuszewski, the North Shore Community Land Trust conducted another of its periodic work days to improve the trail from Sunset Beach School to the military pillbox area. Over the past eight months, thanks to the hard work of volunteers, the Trust has installed more than 100 steps along the hiking trail, built a picnic table at a fine lookout over the North Shore, and planted over 200 native plants including Pōhinahina and Koa.

Since the rerouting of the trail, foot traffic from the school to the pillbox has increased dramatically. Any day of the week singles, small groups in flip flops, runners, and families with kids (both in hand and in backpacks), can be seen huffing up the steep section to the new picnic table, or along the contour trail from there to the pillbox.

Meanwhile, the North Shore Trails Association and the Dirt Riders of Pupukea Paumalu continue to build new trails and maintain old ones. Major improvements have been made to *Party Line* Trail, and are under way at *Hula Girl*. Work is concentrating on reinforcing banked curves and clearing obstacles from pathways. New, more permanent signs are being installed on many of the major trails, high enough to prevent vandalism. NSTA/DROPP members have also expanded the picnic/rest area at “Lilikoi Junction,” which now boasts three picnic tables, benches, a hitching post, and additional plantings, including palms, avocado, and citrus trees.

Although the interior portion of the park reserve remains primarily the domain of mountain bike riders, an increasing number of hikers are exploring deeper into its mauka sections. The HTMC and Solemates schedule annual hikes “from the mountains to the sea,” following the route pioneered by HTMC which connects the Kaunala Trail to Sunset Beach School.

NEW BOOK

HTMC author Richard McMahon's new novel, *The Court-Martial of Benedict Arnold*, is now available for sale at amazon.com, and other booksellers in both ebook and print versions. Arnold, entrusted with the defense of West Point during the Revolutionary War, attempted to surrender it to the British. Warned of the plot's failure, he escaped to British lines. But what if Arnold *had* been captured by the Americans and tried by court-martial for treason? What would his defense have been? Would we have learned what prompted this man, a true hero of the war's early days, to suddenly turn on his country?

CALL TO HTMC AUTHORS

Richard McMahon

Over the years, quite a few of our members and former members have published books, mostly related to hiking and the outdoors. In a future newsletter I would like to feature these authors and a list of the titles they have published, along with a brief description of the work. Those authors who come to mind are Stuart Ball, Jr., John Hoover, John Hall, Nathan Yuen, Steven Haus, Peter Caldwell, Bill Carrico, Erwin Rosa, and myself. If you have published a book, or know of a member who has, and whose name does not appear above, please let me know. Thanks.

IN MEMORIAM

The Newsletter has learned of the passing of HTMC member Clyde Noble. Clyde and his wife Leslie joined the club in their senior years and were avid volley ball players at the club house court, where they also enjoyed laid-back Saturdays. They often hiked with the club on novice trails, and made a generous donation to the landscaping fund several years ago.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

ALONG THE TRAIL is a quarterly publication of the Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club designed to inform the membership of club activities and matters of interest to the hiking community. HTMC members and any other interested parties are welcome to submit articles to ALONG THE TRAIL. Submissions must be received by the 5th day of March, June, September, and December in order to appear in the newsletter published for the following quarter, and may be sent in any of the following ways (email preferred):

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CHECK OUT THE HTMC WEB PAGE

<http://htmclub.org>

MOVING? Our low-cost newsletter mailings are not forwarded by the post office, so don't forget to send us your new address. Address changes can be emailed to membership@htmclub.org or sent by regular mail to HTMC, PO Box 2238, Honolulu, HI 96804

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